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EXAMINER	
DICKERSON, CHAD S	

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2625	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/733,296	SATO, JUNKO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CHAD DICKERSON	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 August 2009*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *13-26* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *13-26* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *12 December 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13-26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The Amendment to the claims has necessitated a new ground(s) of rejection. However, the same reference of Iwata '666 is still being applied. The reference of Iwata '665 is combined with the reference of Iwata '666 to cure any deficiencies. When viewing the Applicant's arguments in the filed response on 11/4/2008, the Applicant alleged that the Iwata '666 reference failed to disclose independently setting a representative member printer and not including a setting for independently setting other member printers[1]. However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

The Iwata '666 reference discloses having tabs CD1 and CD2 in figures 6 and 9. When looking at figure 9, several printing groups can be present in the menu displayed in the window. This printer group can be used to set a printing device in one group while it may also be apart of another printing group[2]. The Examiner believes that the feature of "*(a) including a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers*" is performed. However, when it comes to these printing devices being apart of the same virtual printer, the reference of Iwata '665 is being combined to disclose this feature. As shown in figure 35, the user is able to select a printing device independently and change some of the settings related

[1] See Applicant's arguments filed 8/26/2009 on page 7.
[2] Iwata '666 at ¶ [0373]-[0390].

to the selected printing device[3]. This performs the above part of the claim including the feature of the "*plurality of member printers grouped as a virtual printer*" since the group name is analogous to the virtual printer function.

Figure 6 of Iwata '666 is believed to disclose the feature of "*(b) not including a setting item for independently setting other member printers of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer*" because the distribution settings are options that the user can choose that do not change any settings of an independent printing device that is apart of some printing group such as "Monochrome printer". Instead, these settings are specific to the job itself and how this job is processed or distributed[4].

Moreover, the different tabs CD1 and CD2 can be displayed individually as they appear in Iwata '666 figures 6 and 9, or the tabs with the above features can appear all at once. With the tabs being able to be shown at the same time on the screen, the feature of having both screens allowing for independently setting a printing device and not including a setting for independently setting a member printer that is apart of the virtual printer is performed [5]. Therefore, the feature of showing a screen with options to modify a certain printing device and options to perform other settings excluding modifying a printing device is performed.

Lastly, when viewing Applicant's figure 19, the Examiner interprets the setting item for independently setting a representative member printer to correspond to box (12) on the left, and the feature of not including a setting item for independently setting other member printers to correspond with box (16) on the right side of the figure. When

[3] Iwata '665 at [0294]-[0298].

the Examiner reads the latter claim feature, the Examiner interprets this as a setting item not included to set other printers independently because the options only refer to the printing device of the printer selected on the other adjacent screen that has priority. This feature can be disclosed by either of the two references in one of two ways mentioned below.

With using the Iwata '666 primary reference, the user can have one printer apart of two groups. If the printing device is the only printer in one group, the options on the right side of figure 39 of Iwata '666 would only pertain to the settings of the printing device, thus allowing it to be set independently of other member printers and not including any options to set other member printers apart of another printer group with the currently modified printer[6]. However, this would not be set as the same virtual printer as the printer being modified, but the Iwata '666 reference would cure this deficiency and with the introduction of Iwata '666, this reference presents the second way to perform this feature.

Iwata '666 discloses using different check boxes (cbx) in figure 35, which can represent the function of the left side of Applicant's figure 19. When checking a box using the functionality preference, the user has all the functions related to the checked printers regarding the paper sizes to choose from, as the system does not perform a conflict processing function during this functionality display. When a certain printer box is checked, the currently checked printer has only its options able to be changed by the

[4] Iwata '666 at ¶ [0198]-[0212].
[5] Id. at ¶ [0154]-[0157].
[6] Id. at ¶ [0367]-[0378].

user[7]. Therefore, if there are three printers with only one box checked, the one printer only has its settings changed while not allowing the other member printers that are currently grouped in the same printer group to have their information changed. The printer with the box checked determines which settings will be able to be modified on the right side of figure 35, which is similar to Applicant's figure 19. The Examiner has decided to apply the first scenario in the Office Action, but the second scenario could be used to disclose Applicant's invention as well.

Therefore, with the two above scenarios mentioned, the Examiner still believes that the Applicant's invention is disclosed with the combined references of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 references.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 13-17, 19-23, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwata '666 (Us Pub 2002/0163666) in view of Iwata '665 (Us Pub 2002/0163665).

[7] See Iwata '666 at ¶ [0289]-[0298].

Re claim 13: Iwata '666 discloses a control method in a printing control apparatus capable of executing printing processing of a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers grouped as a virtual printer, said method comprising:

a first providing step of providing, when the virtual printer set to a first output method is designated (i.e. the user in the system is able to designate distributed printing in the system. This is considered as the first output method; see fig. 9; paragraphs [0194]-[0197]), a first user interface of the virtual printer by performing a conflict process of functions of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer (i.e. in the "Distributed Printing Properties" settings, the information that is accepted as input data describing the output of the image data is limited to the performance information of the respective printers. The performance information that is greater than the performance information of the printers is restricted from being chosen as an option. This is an example of the conflicting process since the performance information is being used to determine what paper size and other features are supported by the printers in the distributed printing option; see paragraphs [0178]-[0182] and [0225]-[0239]), the first user interface not including a setting item for independently setting the plurality member printers grouped as the virtual printer (i.e. in the system, the "Distributed Printing Properties" tab sets a couple of options to be used in regards to a job being printed on a printer. This tab does not independently set an option for an individual printing device in the interface screen; see paragraphs [0178]-[0182] and [0225]-[0239]); and

a second providing step of providing, when the virtual printer set to a second output method is designated (i.e. in the system, when the user is designating the

recovery printer in the system, this is an example of designating a second output method on the user interface; see figs. 5 and 6; see paragraphs [0198]-[0212]), a second user interface of the virtual printer without performing the conflict process (i.e. within the "Distribution Setting" dialogue box, the system is performing settings of the virtual printer selected in figure 5. At this point in selecting the recovery printer or setting other printing options, the conflict process is not performed; see figs. 6, 32, 37 and 40; paragraphs [0198]-[0212] and [0367]-[0370]), the second user interface (a) including a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers (i.e. the Iwata '666 reference performs the function of including a setting item for a representative member printer of a plurality of member printers through the settings seen in figure 11. The different printers associated with the printer group can be set independently. If a printer is the only printer apart of a group, it can have settings associated with the printer changed. Also, this same printer can be apart of another group. The other group the printer may be apart of will not be effect by one printer's settings change within another group; see figs. 9 and 39-43, paragraphs [0225]-[0230] and [0373]-[0383]) and (b) not including a setting item for independently setting other member printers of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer (i.e. the distribution settings are options that the user can choose that do not change any specific setting of an independent printing device that is apart of some printing group such as "Monochrome printer". Instead, these settings are specific to the job itself and how this job is processed or distributed to other printing devices. The different tabs CD1 and CD2 can be displayed individually as they appear in Iwata '666

figures 6 and 9, or the tabs with the above features can appear all at once. With the tabs being able to be shown at the same time on the screen, the feature of having both screens allowing for independently setting a printing device and not including a setting for independently setting a member printer that is apart of the virtual printer; see figs. 39-43, paragraphs [0154]-[0157] and [0373]-[0390]).

However, Iwata '666 fails to specifically teach including a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Iwata '665. Iwata '665 discloses a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer (i.e. Iwata '665 like '666 discloses sending a job to a virtual printer to print out a job in a certain manner (same field of endeavor). However, as shown in figure 35, the user is able to select a printing device independently and change some of the settings related to the selected printing device; see ¶ [0294]-[0298]).

Therefore, in view of Iwata '665, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of As shown in figure 35, the user is able to select a printing device independently and change some of the settings related to the selected printing device, incorporated in the device of Iwata '666, in order to exclude certain printer that are apart of a printing group from a setting (as stated in Iwata '665 ¶ [0296]).

Re claim 14: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses the method according to claim 13, wherein the second output method comprises a redirect printing method system which automatically switches, when an error occurs in a printer to which a print job has been transmitted, to another printer of the plurality of member printers (i.e. in the system, the recovery option is used to transfer a job to another printer that is in error to another printer that may be of the same type or output method; see figs. 6, 32, 37 and 40; paragraphs [0198]-[[0212] and [0367]-[0370]).

Re claim 15: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses the method according to claim 13, wherein the first output method comprises a distributed printing method which distributes a print job to the plurality of member printers for pages (i.e. when the user has selected the distributed printing option, the pages are sent to a virtual printer driver that contains a plurality of printers. The system processes whether the printers that receive the intermediate data to render and print are different or identical types. The system then outputs the image data to each respective printer depending on the conclusion of the types of printers used in the distributing printing; see figs. 11-14; paragraphs [0243]-[0261]).

Re claim 16: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses the method according to claim 13, wherein the second user interface comprises a user interface of a printer driver of the representative member

printer and a user interface of a printer driver of the virtual printer (i.e. shown in figure 5 is an example of a user interface that displays a printer driver of a printer that can be apart of a particular group and a virtual printer driver that represents a virtual printer; see fig. 5; paragraph [0198]).

Re claim 17: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses the method according to claim 13, wherein the user interface of the printer driver of the virtual printer in the second output method contains a setting item for creating intermediate data (i.e. in the system, the information regarding the basic settings and the performance information of the respective printers represented by the virtual printer driver are all converted into print data for the virtual printer driver. The print data is then output to the HDD (41) as intermediate print data. The basic information regarding the printing and paper settings are converted into intermediate print data, and the printing and paper settings are considered as the setting items used for creating the intermediate data; see paragraphs [0231]-[0240]).

Re claim 19: Iwata '666 discloses a printing control apparatus capable of executing printing processing of a predetermined output method using a plurality of member printers grouped as a virtual printer, said apparatus comprising:

first providing means for providing, when a virtual printer set to a first output method is designated (i.e. the user in the system is able to designate distributed printing in the system. This is considered as the first output method; see fig. 9; paragraphs

[0194]-[0197]), a first user interface of the virtual printer by performing a conflict process of functions of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printers (i.e. in the "Distributed Printing Properties" settings, the information that is accepted as input data describing the output of the image data is limited to the performance information of the respective printers. The performance information that is greater than the performance information of the printers is restricted from being chosen as an option. This is an example of the conflicting process since the performance information is being used to determine what paper size and other features are supported by the printers in the distributed printing option; see paragraphs [0178]-[0182] and [0225]-[0239]), the first user interface not including a setting item for independently setting for plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer (i.e. in the system, the "Distributed Printing Properties" tab sets a couple of options to be used in regards to a job being printed on a printer. This tab does not independently set an option for an individual printing device in the interface screen; see paragraphs [0178]-[0182] and [0225]-[0239]); and

second providing means for providing, when the virtual printer set to a second output method is designated (i.e. in the system, when the user is designating the recovery printer in the system, this is an example of designating a second output method on the user interface; see figs. 5 and 6; see paragraphs [0198]-[[0212]), a second user interface of the virtual printer without performing the conflict process (i.e. within the "Distribution Setting" dialogue box, the system is performing settings of the virtual printer selected in figure 5. At this point in selecting the recovery printer or

setting other printing options, the conflict process is not performed; see figs. 6, 32, 37 and 40; paragraphs [0198]-[0212] and [0367]-[0370]), the second user interface (a) including a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers (i.e. the Iwata '666 reference performs the function of including a setting item for a representative member printer of a plurality of member printers through the settings seen in figure 11. The different printers associated with the printer group can be set independently. If a printer is the only printer apart of a group, it can have settings associated with the printer changed. Also, this same printer can be apart of another group. The other group the printer may be apart of will not be effect by one printer's settings change within another group; see figs. 9 and 39-43, paragraphs [0225]-[0230] and [0373]-[0383]) and (b) not including a setting item for independently setting other member printers of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer (i.e. the distribution settings are options that the user can choose that do not change any specific setting of an independent printing device that is apart of some printing group such as "Monochrome printer". Instead, these settings are specific to the job itself and how this job is processed or distributed to other printing devices. The different tabs CD1 and CD2 can be displayed individually as they appear in Iwata '666 figures 6 and 9, or the tabs with the above features can appear all at once. With the tabs being able to be shown at the same time on the screen, the feature of having both screens allowing for independently setting a printing device and not including a setting for independently setting a member printer that is apart of the virtual printer; see figs. 39-43, paragraphs [0154]-[0157] and [0373]-[0390]).

However, Iwata '666 fails to specifically teach including a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Iwata '665. Iwata '665 discloses a setting item for independently setting a representative member printer of the plurality of member printers grouped as the virtual printer (i.e. Iwata '665 like '666 discloses sending a job to a virtual printer to print out a job in a certain manner (same field of endeavor). However, as shown in figure 35, the user is able to select a printing device independently and change some of the settings related to the selected printing device; see ¶ [0294]-[0298]).

Therefore, in view of Iwata '665, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of As shown in figure 35, the user is able to select a printing device independently and change some of the settings related to the selected printing device, incorporated in the device of Iwata '666, in order to exclude certain printer that are apart of a printing group from a setting (as stated in Iwata '665 ¶ [0296]).

Re claim 20: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses the apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the second output method comprises a redirect printing method system which automatically switches, when an error occurs in a printer to which a print job has been transmitted, to another printer of the plurality of member printers (i.e. in the system, the recovery option is used

to transfer a job to another printer that is in error to another printer that may be of the same type or output method; see figs. 6, 32, 37 and 40; paragraphs [0198]-[[0212] and [0367]-[0370]).

Re claim 21: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses the apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the first output method comprises a distributed printing method which distributes a print job to the plurality of member printers for pages (i.e. when the user has selected the distributed printing option, the pages are sent to a virtual printer driver that contains a plurality of printers. The system processes whether the printers that receive the intermediate data to render and print are different or identical types. The system then outputs the image data to each respective printer depending on the conclusion of the types of printers used in the distributing printing; see figs. 11-14; paragraphs [0243]-[0261]).

Re claim 22: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses the apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the second user interface comprises a user interface of a printer driver of the representative member printer and a user interface of a printer driver of the virtual printer (i.e. shown in figure 5 is an example of a user interface that displays a printer driver of a printer that can be apart of a particular group and a virtual printer driver that represents a virtual printer; see fig. 5; paragraph [0198]).

Re claim 23: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses the apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the user interface of the printer driver of the virtual printer in the second output method contains a setting item for creating intermediate data (i.e. in the system, the information regarding the basic settings and the performance information of the respective printers represented by the virtual printer driver are all converted into print data for the virtual printer driver. The print data is then output to the HDD (41) as intermediate print data. The basic information regarding the printing and paper settings are converted into intermediate print data, and the printing and paper settings are considered as the setting items used for creating the intermediate data; see paragraphs [0231]-[0240]).

Re claim 25: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses a computer-readable storage medium having a computer-executable program stored thereon for effecting the method according to claim 13 (i.e. the processing of the invention of Iwata '666 is performed using a computer program stored on a medium to be executed; see paragraphs [0231]-[0233]).

Re claim 26: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses a computer-executable program stored on an apparatus-readable storage medium for effecting the method according to claim 13 (i.e. the processing of the invention of Iwata '666 is performed using a computer program stored on a medium to be executed; see paragraphs [0231]-[0233] and [0451]).

4. Claims 18 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwata '666, as modified by the features of Iwata '665, as applied to claims 13 and 19, and further in view of Aritomi '751 (USP 7307751).

Re claim 18: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses the method according to claim 13, further comprising a designation step of issuing, to the member printer, a designation of converting a drawing instruction based on intermediate data created on the basis of application data (i.e. in the system, the intermediate data created from the basic printing information and performance information from the application (100) is now being sent to the printer drivers to render and to the printers to actually print the rendered documents. The drawing commands are used to express figures or images to be rendered; see paragraphs [0176]-[0186]).

However, Iwata '666 fails to specifically teach converting a drawing instruction into a predetermined page description language.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Aritomi '751. Aritomi '751 discloses converting a drawing instruction into a predetermined page description language (i.e. like the invention of Iwata, the Aritomi reference has an information processing apparatus send information to a printing device (same field of endeavor). However, Aritomi '751 discloses an invention that allows the user to interact with an interface to choose how print data is to be rendered. Aritomi also involves converting data into an intermediate format similar to Iwata '666. Both systems involve a user using an interface with a printer driver to communicate with a connected printer.

However, in step S1606, the printer driver receives a drawing function and spools the drawing function as intermediate data. The printer driver then sequentially performs PDL conversion of the spool data to generate print data; col. 12, ln 11-19).

Therefore, in view of Aritomi '751, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of converting a drawing instruction into a predetermined page description language in order to convert spool data, based on intermediate data, into PDL to generate print data (as stated in Aritomi '751 col. 12, ln 11-19).

Re claim 24: The teachings of Iwata '666 and Iwata '665 are disclosed above. Iwata '666 discloses the apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising designation means for issuing, to the member printer, a designation of converting a drawing instruction based on intermediate data created on the basis of application data (i.e. in the system, the intermediate data created from the basic printing information and performance information from the application (100) is now being sent to the printer drivers to render and to the printers to actually print the rendered documents. The drawing commands are used to express figures or images to be rendered; see paragraphs [0176]-[0186]).

However, Iwata '666 fails to specifically teach converting a drawing instruction into a predetermined page description language.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Aritomi '751. Aritomi '751 discloses converting a drawing instruction into a predetermined page description

language (i.e. like the invention of Iwata, the Aritomi reference has an information processing apparatus send information to a printing device (same field of endeavor). However, Aritomi '751 discloses an invention that allows the user to interact with an interface to choose how print data is to be rendered. Aritomi also involves converting data into an intermediate format similar to Iwata '666. Both systems involve a user using an interface with a printer driver to communicate with a connected printer. However, in step S1606, the printer driver receives a drawing function and spools the drawing function as intermediate data. The printer driver then sequentially performs PDL conversion of the spool data to generate print data; col. 12, ln 11-19).

Therefore, in view of Aritomi '751, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of converting a drawing instruction into a predetermined page description language in order to convert spool data, based on intermediate data, into PDL to generate print data (as stated in Aritomi '751 col. 12, ln 11-19).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6. Yacoub (USP 6552813) discloses directing print jobs in a network printing system.

7. Roosen (USP 7177040) discloses Remote printer control.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAD DICKERSON whose telephone number is (571)270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00pm Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571) 272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. D./
/Chad Dickerson/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625